

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner's allowance of claims 1-17 and 41-49 and indication that claims 19-29 and 31-40 contain allowable subject matter is acknowledged.

Claim 19 has been placed in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended to depend on claim 19 and are therefore allowable.

Claim 22 has been placed in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. Claims 23 and 24 depend on claim 22 and are therefore allowable.

Claim 25 has been placed in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. Claim 26 has been amended to depend on claim 25 and is therefore allowable.

Claim 27 has been placed in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable.

Claim 28 has been placed in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. Claim 29 has been amended to depend on claim 28 and is therefore allowable.

Claim 31 has been placed in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. Claims 32 and 33 have been amended to depend on claim 31 and are therefore allowable.

Claim 34 has been placed in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. Claims 35 and 36 depend on claim 34 and are therefore allowable.

Claim 37 has been placed in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable.

Claim 38 has been placed in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable.

Claim 39 has been placed in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and is therefore allowable. Claim 40 has been amended to depend on claim 39 and is therefore allowable.

Rejected claims 18 and 30 have been cancelled to expedite a prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

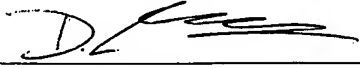
Applicants' attorney notes that not all of the references listed on the previously submitted Form PTO-1449 were individually initialed. See, for example, Patent Appn. Serial No. 10/418,542 on sheet 1, and the articles listed on sheet 2 and sheet 3 of the originally submitted Form PTO-1449. Initialing of these references is respectfully requested, so Applicants can be sure that these references are listed on the cover of the patent. If copies of any of the references are missing, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned who will provide additional copies. Copies of the Form PTO-1449 as attached to the September 15, 2004 Office Action and as originally filed are provided for the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 19-29 and 31-40 in addition to the previous allowance of claims 1-17 and 41-49, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance, are requested. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Glen Stringham et al.

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By: 
Deepak Malhotra
Reg. No. 33,560